

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-10 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

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XMB-02 OPIC-03 OIC-02 /112 W
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6619

INFO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: GATT, ETRD

SUBJECT: GATT COUNCIL MEETING, OCTOBER 31 - ARTICLE XXII:1

CONSULTATIONS ON JAPANESE IMPORT RESTRICTIONS ON BEEF

REF: A. GENEVA 8279. B. GENEVA 3457

1. AT THE OCTOBER 31 GATT COUNCIL MEETING, AUSTRALIA, ALSO ON BEHALF OF NEW ZEALAND AND THE UNITED STATES, REPORTED ON THE OUTCOME OF THE ARTICLE XXII:1 CONSULTATIONS ON JAPANESE IMPORT RESTRICTIONS ON BEEF. (REF B).

2. AUSTRALIA STATED THAT THESE CONSULTATIONS HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED IN A SPIRIT OF COOPERATION. HOWEVER, THE OUTCOME OF THESE CONSULTATIONS WAS NOT ENTIRELY SATISFACTORY BECAUSE THE QUANTITIES
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OF BEEF AND VEAL NOW PERMITTED TO BE IMPORTED INTO JAPAN CANNOT BE

ACCEPTED AS A RESTORATION OF THE PREVIOUS TRADE SITUATION. AUSTRALIA IS CONCERNED THAT IN CONSEQUENCE OF THE INTRODUCTION OF MARKET INTERVENTION ARRANGEMENTS BY JAPAN, OVERSEAS SELLERS TO THE JAPANESE MARKET HAVE BEEN CONSIGNED TO THE POSITION OF RESIDUAL SUPPLIERS AND ARE SUBJECT TO CONTINUING UNCERTAINTY OF ACCESS OWING TO THE IRREGULAR ALLOCATION OF IMPORT QUOTAS. AUSTRALIA ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE LACK OF GATT JUSTIFICATION FOR THE CONTINUOUS MAINTENANCE OF QR'S ON BEEF AND VEAL BY JAPAN.

3. IN REPLY, JAPAN EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE FRANK ATMOSPHERE WHICH HAD PREVAILED THROUGHOUT THE CONSULTATIONS AND INDICATED THAT THE TOTAL QUANTITY OF BEEF IMPORTS TO BE ALLOWED DURING THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR WILL BE SUBSTANTIAL. JAPAN ALSO STATED THAT THE OPERATIONS OF THE LIPC WILL CONTRIBUTE NOT ONLY TO THE STABILIZATION OF DOMESTIC MARKET PRICES BUT ALSO TO "MINIMIZING THE UNDESIRABLE FLUCTUATIONS OF IMPORTS." (SIC)

4. WITH THE REPORT TO THE COUNCIL, THE JAPANESE ARTICLE XXI CONSULTATIONS ON BEEF HAVE BEEN FORMALLY CONCLUDED. HOWEVER, AUSTRALIA RESERVED THE RIGHT TO REOPEN THE QUESTION IF BEEF AND VEAL IMPORTS INTO JAPAN WERE DISADVANTAGED BY THE CONTINUATION OF QR'S.DALE

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